



pRide



SUMMER 1998

THE NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR

RHODE ISLAND STATE EMPLOYEES

DHS Worker Swaps Old Car for New — An Even Trade!



Stephen Evangelista, Executive Director, National Kidney Foundation of MA & RI looks on as Marc Charren, President, Majestic Motors, presents Carol with the key to her new Honda.

"The National Kidney Foundation is America's Number 1 Charity of Choice for Donating Cars." That was the message that executive director Stephen Evangelista of Warwick, and car program manager Peter Stelljes of Wakefield, delivered to the state workers in the Food Stamp Section of the Department of Human Services, on a Monday morning in February. This message was followed by an appeal made to the office staff to donate one of their autos to the National Kidney Foundation, adding that a donation was urgently needed that very day. There was no response from the staff. **Carol Zuba** was then asked directly if she would be willing to donate her old car. She hesitated, and said that she would like to, but needed it, even though it was twelve years old. What followed was a scene reminiscent of the TV commercial in which the nationally recognized group delivers that multi-million dollar check to the door of a lucky winner. The unsuspecting Carol was then informed that she had won a new car in a raffle sponsored by the Kidney Foundation of Massachusetts and Rhode Island at the Auto Show at the R.I. Convention Center; a 1998 Honda generously donated to the National Kidney Foundation by Majestic Motors of Warwick and Lincoln.

(continued on page 3)

pRide in performance

DOA EMPLOYEE SERVICE AIDE HONORED



Fran Cirillo, Employee Service Aide, Department of Administration, was recently honored for her outstanding efforts in support of the U.S. Savings Bonds employee payroll program for the State of Rhode Island. Pictured with Fran (center), is Frank Riley, Northeast Regional Director, U.S. Savings Bonds Marketing Office, and the Treasurer of the United States, Mary Ellen Withrow. Mrs. Withrow was the keynote speaker at the Rhode Island Savings Bonds campaign kickoff breakfast hosted by **Mr. Daniel Cavanagh**, President and CEO of MetLife Auto & Home, Warwick. Mr. Cavanagh is the 1998 Rhode Island Area Savings Bonds Campaign Chairman.

Fran Cirillo is currently involved in leading the state employees 1998 Savings Bonds campaign being conducted in May and June. Executive Chairman of the current campaign is **Major General Reginald A. Centracchio**.



FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Executive Orders

- 98-1** 2-27-98 Voluntary Mass Immunization Program for Meningitis.
- 98-2** 3-4-98 Reestablishes the R.I. Economic Policy Council
- 98-3** 3-12-98 Governor's Center on Aging Advisory Council.
- 98-4** 4-15-98 State Support for Public Libraries.

For more information or copies of Executive Orders, call the **Office of the Executive Counsel, 222-2080, Ext. 258.**

BITS 'N PIECES.

Susan Lieb, Regional Manager for Field Operations for Region I with the R.I. Department of Human Services, was elected president of the National Eligibility Workers Association (NEW) at a recent national board meeting in San Francisco, CA. NEW is the professional organization dedicated to improving the knowledge, skills and professionalism of all eligibility professionals.

Ms. Lieb currently serves as Co-chair of NEW's National Conference Committee. The 1998 National Conference will be held in Providence August 18-21.

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Public Administrators is hosting the ASPA Region I and II Conference in November 1998. The conference, entitled, "Toward Virtual Government: A Report Card on the Changing Face of Public Administration" will be held at the Viking Hotel, Newport, November 4-6. Individuals interested in submitting a paper for presentation should contact Dr. F. Leazes at **fleazes@GROC.RI.-EDU** or call **(401) 456-8379**.

The Year of the Ocean

Protecting the oceans is an undertaking of Titanic proportions: oceanic waters cover 72% of the Earth's surface and harbor an abundance of the world's animals and plants. To draw attention to the need to restore the ocean's fisheries, safeguard seabirds and other marine animals, and conserve our coasts, the United Nations has declared 1998 the International Year of the Ocean. The people of Rhode Island, The Ocean State, are keenly aware of the need to remain ever vigilant and proactive to keep our coastal and inland waters clean.

What You Can Do:

- **Keep it clean.** Support measures to stop dumping of sludge and sewage into harbors, rivers, and streams.
- **Keep it safe.** Endorse creation of marine reserves to protect fish and other marine life.
- **Stash your trash.** Pick up litter, stow plastic bags, reel in fishing line, and avoid six-pack rings.
- **Prevent pollution.** Don't dump motor oil, pesticides, or other toxic chemicals into streets, onto the ground, down storm drains, or anywhere else where they can eventually find their way to the ocean.
- **Do your part.** Participate in local beach clean-up campaigns.

Help clean up the beach!

These simple steps — appropriate for rivers, lakes, streams or ocean fronts — will help you organize a beach cleanup in your community.

- **Choose a good day.** Some cleanups occur during national "coast-weeks" in early fall, others occur in spring or during periods of low tide. Choose a day, probably on a weekend or holiday, when you can attract maximum participants.
- **Get some help.** Organize a steering committee or task force to help you plan the event, recruit volunteers, get permits and supplies, and oversee the actual event. (continued on page 5)

pRide, the state employees' newsletter, is published by the Division of Human Resources, Department of Administration, William E. Powers Building, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908-5860. 222-2200

Director of Administration:

Robert L. Carl, Jr., PhD

Personnel Administrator:

Anthony A. Bucci

Editor-in-Chief:

Donald J. Boisvert

Executive Editor:

Beverly A. Dwyer

Photographer:

Chet Browning, MHRH

Advisory Board:

Susan Anderson, NBC • Patricia Borges, MHRH • Becky Bovell, DED • Eric Cote, GO • John DiTomaso, DOA • Anne Gregson, URI • Joan Grenga, CJTD • Jane Grenier, DCYF • Larry Grimaldi, DEA • Douglas Hartley, PUC • Frank Iacono, DLS • Steve Klamkin, GTO • Raymond LaBelle, EMA • Linda McArthur, RIHMFC • Delma McConnell, RILC • Sandra Nadeau, CCP • Nancy Piffard, DET • Michelle Santos, DOH • Barbara Simmons, CRMC

Deadline for contributions to the Fall issue is August 28, 1998.

The State of Rhode Island is an equal opportunity employer and reasonable accommodations will be provided. For assistance, call EEO Office at 222-3990. (TDD 222-6144).

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Articles, news items, photos, and other information for publication in pRide should be mailed to:

Donald J. Boisvert
Editor-in-Chief, pRide
Seven Barbs Hill Road,
Foster, RI 02825-1601

The deadline date for submissions for the next newsletter is published in each issue and may be found at the foot of the above column, following the names of the Advisory Board members.

Old Car for New . . . Continued from page 1



Carol's excitement was shared by her office associates, and several staff members offered to donate their old cars on the spot — if they could get a new car, too!

Carol took possession of her new Honda at Majestic Motors in Warwick, and simultaneously donated her '86 Mitsubishi to the National Kidney Foundation. She may take a federal income tax deduction for the value of her donated car, and this in turn, will also reduce her state income tax liability. Anyone may donate their old car, truck, motorcycle, or boat to the National Kidney Foundation of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Inc., by calling **1-800-488-2277** and arranging for a free tow.

Carol Zuba surrenders the key to her old car to Peter Stelljes, Car Program Manager, National Kidney Foundation of MA & RI

place convenient to the donor, and a receipt given for tax purposes. Money raised through the car donation program provides almost three-quarters of a million dollars annually to the Massachusetts and Rhode Island affiliate for local programs working towards the goal of helping people with kidney disease and funding research to find a cure. Congratulations Carol, and remember: "Drive no faster than your guardian angel can fly!"

From Watch Hill to Woonsocket,

Tufts Health Plan is dedicated to

providing people with a health plan

of the highest quality. If you run a

Rhode Island business, talk with

Tufts Health Plan. Call your broker

or (401) 273-2600. And find out

just how good a health plan can be.

DEDICATED TO A HI

TUFTS  **Health Plan**

No one does more to keep you healthy.

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT ISSUES

Open Enrollment

The annual benefit plans open enrollment is scheduled for October, 1998. The effective date of any changes selected will be January 2, 1999. The open enrollment will include all the health plans, group life basic and supplemental, pre-paid legal plan, short term disability (AFLAC) and cancer plan (AFLAC). An employee may apply for or cancel the AFLAC short term disability or cancer plan at any time if the **after tax** option is selected. However, changes to any plan selected on a **pre-tax** basis can only be made during open enrollment. The one exception to this is the deferred compensation plan offered through Fidelity Investments. Although contributions are made on a pre-tax basis, a different section of Treasury Rules allows enrollment or disenrollment at any time during the plan year.

Mental Health Services

The Federal Mental Health Parity Act went into effect on January 1, 1998. Under the new law, a health plan cannot impose an annual or lifetime dollar limit on mental health benefits if dollar limits don't exist for medical and surgical benefits. For the State of Rhode Island health plan, the dollar limit for outpatient mental health services (\$1,000 per year) has been changed to an annual per visit maximum. If you are utilizing these services, contact your plan for the new limit applicable in your case.

Focus on Eye Care for VSP Members.

We asked David Chan, O.D., one of Vision Service Plan's optometric consultants, to answer several questions VSP members frequently ask about their vision.

Q. Do I need a special eye examination as I get close to, or past 40?

A. You don't need a special eye examination over age 40 but it's critical that you have your **regular eye examination** at least every two years. As we get older, we are more susceptible to certain eye diseases such as cataracts, glaucoma and macular degeneration. Getting your eyes regularly examined enables your eye doctor to detect the first signs of disease and prescribe the appropriate treatments to prevent vision loss.

Q. What symptoms should I watch for as I reach age 40?

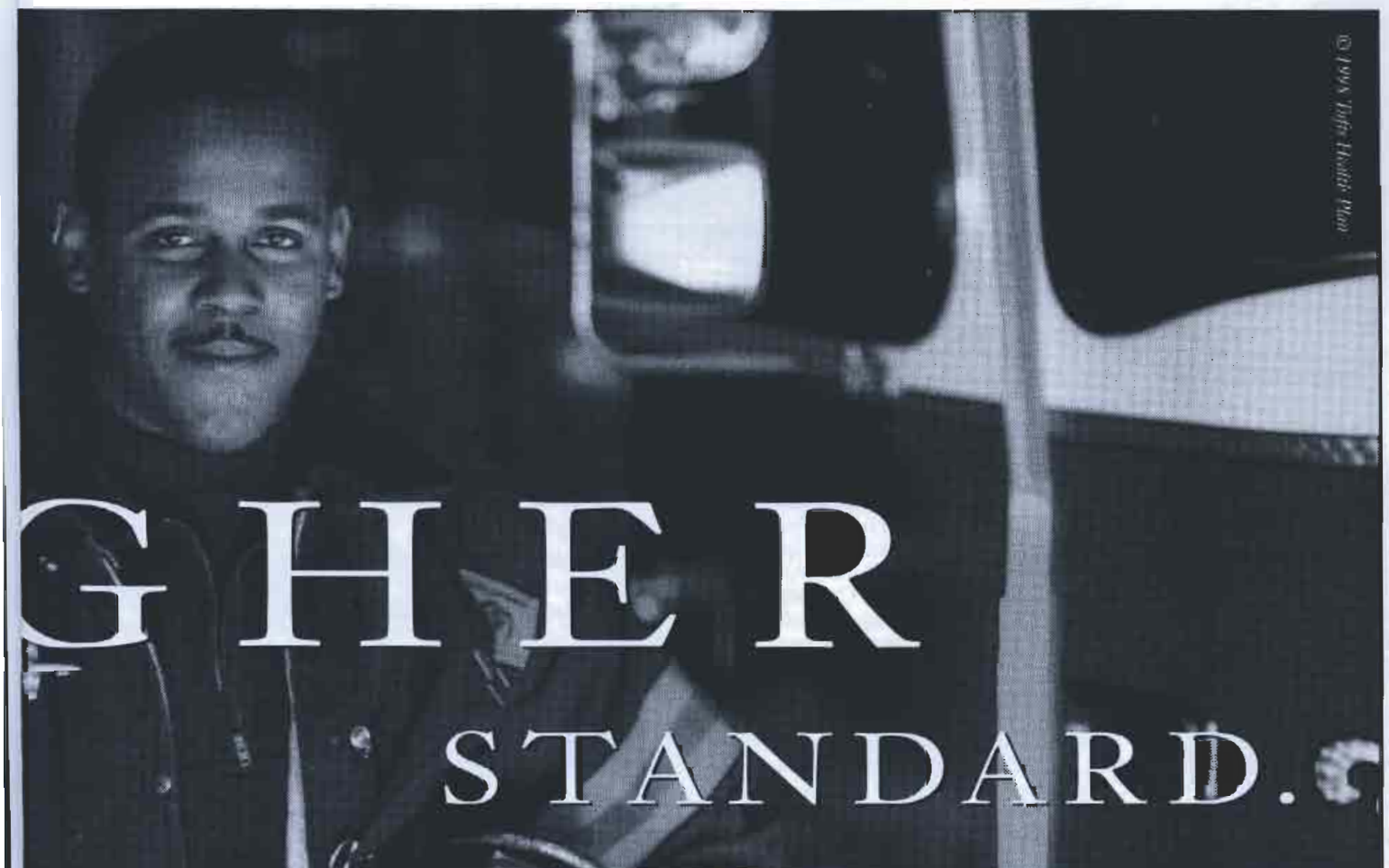
A. The most common symptoms is a change in your reading vision. People in their 40's often have trouble reading smaller print and find it more difficult to focus on objects that are up close. Wearing reading glasses or bifocal lenses will correct the problem. That's why it's important for people who are 40 or older to have regular eye examinations so they can maintain optimum eye health and vision.

Q. Do my eyes need special attention during certain months of the year?

A. First, everyone needs ultraviolet radiation (UVR) protection year-round. You should wear sunglasses whenever the sun is shining, as well as on bright, cloudy days.

A lack of protection from the sun's UV rays can lead to a number of uncomfortable problems. For example, after a long day of snow skiing or a day at the beach, your eyes can feel tired, sore, light sensitive or even have a gritty feeling to them. Though painful, these symptoms are usually temporary and rarely cause permanent damage.

(Continued on page 5)





conferred upon eight distinguished individuals, recognizing them for their unique contributions to the University, the people of the State of Rhode Island, and the nation. Receiving honorary Doctor of Laws degrees were: **James W. Carey**, **John Collins Quinn**, and **Bruce Sundlun**. Receiving honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree were: **Edward D. Eddy**, **Mary "Polly" S. Eddy**, and **Peter Marinus Galanti**. Honorary Doctor of Arts degrees were awarded to **Barbara Meek** and, posthumously, to **J. T. Walsh**.

Walsh was scheduled to be the commencement speaker. He died unexpectedly in February. An accomplished actor and URI alum, Walsh was best known for his work in *Breakdown*; *Nixon*; *The Grifters*; *Slingblade*; *Tequila Sunrise*; *Good Morning Vietnam*; *Tin Men*; *Hannah and Her Sisters*; and *A Few Good Men*.

His good friend, **Ed Begley, Jr.**, was commencement speaker. He is best known for his work on the TV series, *St. Elsewhere*. He is also an active environmentalist.

John Lamberti, a junior at the University of Rhode Island, was nominated for two Emmy Awards for 1998. John, a journalism student, has worked with Channel 6 for the past three years. He was nominated for his editing work on two different stories: "Coma Lady," about a woman who tried to commit suicide by taking pills and had a near-death experience; and "The Great Canadian Adventure," a half-hour special which aired last summer. John grew up around the media — his father worked for local radio stations doing voice and production. At 17, he edited his first TV commercial, and at 18, he joined Channel 6. John also works at the URI Audio Visual Department. John's ultimate goal is to direct television shows — his dream is to direct *Saturday Night Live*. This summer, John said, he will start learning how to direct when he works at Channel 6 full-time.

Daryl Finizio, newly-elected president of URI's Student Senate, has been awarded the prestigious \$30,000 Truman Scholarship. The merit-based scholarship is awarded by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation annually to one college junior per state who wished to attend the nation's top graduate schools in preparation for careers in government and public service. Among Daryl's many achievements are: Boy's Nation Delegate; Voice of Democracy Speech Contest winner; and a U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship recipient. He served as a Senate Page for Senator John Chafee and was the first URI student to sit on the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education. Last year, he helped register more than 3,000 URI students to vote for the bond referendums.

Gregory Cooper, a sophomore, has been awarded a \$7,500 Goldwater Scholarship with an opportunity to receive another \$7,500 for his senior year. Gregory is only one of three individuals in Rhode Island to win the scholarship. Only 300 such scholarships are given nationwide. The scholarship program is designed to foster and encourage excellence in science and mathematics. A National Merit Scholarship winner and a URI Centennial Scholar, Gregory was also the 1996 valedictorian of North Kingstown High School. He hopes to one day teach on a college campus and conduct research.

URI's College of Continuing Education named the first eight inductees to its new Hall of Honor. The eight individuals recognized for their efforts to help improve the College are: Phoebe Shepard; the late Gill Mongeau; Alan Shawn Feinstein and his wife, Pat; Anna and Gregory Demetrakas; the late Doris Holloway Abels; and Dr. Hollis Farnum. Portraits of the eight were unveiled on the wall of the first floor of the college at the Providence Campus.

Approximately 2,600 students graduated on May 16 and 17 as URI celebrated its 112th commencement exercises. Honorary degrees were

Employee Benefits

Continued from page 4

However, long-term ultraviolet radiation exposure can lead to a variety of eye problems. They include cataracts, macular degeneration, corneal degenerative changes, skin cancer around the eye and abnormal tissue growth on the white part of the eyes known as pterygium.

With regard to indoor eyecare during the winter months, those who wear contact lenses may need lubricating drops to offset the drying effects of heated air.

Q. Are dark sunglasses the best at protecting your eyes from UV rays?

A. Darkness reduces the amount of light that enters your eyes. It does not provide UV protection. A special coating provides UV protection. Check the label on your sunglasses for UV coating or ask your doctor if it's included.

Q. Is There another way to reduce glare from bright sunshine reflecting off water or snow?

A. Some people may want to consider polarized lenses since this reduces the glare off snow and water. Reducing this brightness eliminates squinting and burning. Once again, polarized lenses are not the same as lenses with UV protection.

Year of the Ocean (Continued from page 2)

- **Select your site.** Consider how accessible and safe the site is for volunteers as well as the kind of impact you can have cleaning up that site as opposed to another.
- **Recruit volunteers.** Approach local civic organizations, SCUBA diving groups, boating clubs, environmental organizations, and youth groups.
- **Divide the site into "zones" and assign a "captain" for each zone.** Each captain will oversee volunteer efforts in that zone and make sure the zone gets thoroughly cleaned up.
- **Publicize the event.** Distribute eye-catching posters, leaflets, and fliers; ask local radio stations to sponsor; and get newspapers to write stories, both before the event and once you have results to report.
- **Collect data.** Use a checklist to record information such as the total number of volunteers who participated, the number of miles cleaned, the number of trash bags filled and what they weighed, the total amount (in pounds or tons) of trash collected, and the number and kinds of stranded animals reported.

For more information on organizing a coastal cleanup, contact the Center for Marine Conservation, 1725 DeSales Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 429-5609.



These environmental tips are provided by Earth Share, a federation of America's leading non-profit environmental and conservation charities, and participates in our employee giving campaign (SECA). For more information about Earth Share visit their web site at www.earthshare.org or call (800) 875-863.

From Watch Hill to Woonsocket, Tufts Health Plan is dedicated to providing people with a health plan of the highest quality. If you run a Rhode Island business, talk with Tufts Health Plan. Call your broker or (401) 273-2600. And find out just how good a health plan can be.

TUFTS  Health Plan
No one does more to keep you healthy.

DEDICATED TO A

HIGHER

STANDARD.